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SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2G
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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HAZNERS VILIS

According to a private letter from V.H. dtd March 13, 1955 there are the following matters of interest besides the main purpose of the letter(matters concerning "Lau-gavas Vanagi"):

1. He announces, that Latvian broadcasts from Madrid were started, for 10 minutes a day; this is according to V.H. an achievement of KAMPUS(C"arge d' Affairs in Madrid) and "old father ZARIJS"(Latvian Minister to Great Britain). The time will be extended as soon as there is more material for broadcasting. Madrid broadcastings can be heard in Latvia and there are indications that people in Latvia listen to Madrid. From Madrid also Estonians and Lithuanians are sending their broadcasts.
2. On January 8, 1955 in Western Germany arrived a Baltic-German man who had lived in Latvia, town of Cesis, similar to sources Edith Bahling and family Edelmann(M/124 and M/142-144); he is not very talkative, and leaves a queer sex impression; he does not tell anything by himself, and answers questions only after long deliberation. Similar attitude had a fm Mrs. Udris who came out of Latvia in fall 1954(to join her relatives in Western Germany). When questioning the new arrival(the man from Cesis, name not mentioned) it appears that many things are better now here already, and that the man pretends not to know them. Either he is very scared and fearful to disclose anything, or was sent out with special task. German security officials have put a surveillance on him. Recently(to be assumed later than in January) in West Germany arrived tens of Germans released from Siberia and other remote parts of Russia Proper. Hazzners has tens of addresses, but claims to have not enough money to visit them all.
3. About the arrest of Edith BAHLING V.H. has the following information: she lived lately in a hotel in Augsburg; this hotel was run by a Latvian of German ethnic origin FELD-NERS(first name believed to be Arturs). Edith B. lived here alone, without her mother with whom she came out of Latvia(mother still lives with her son, Edith Bahling's brother; Edith B. was allegedly thrown out because was not able to get along with her sister i.l.). In the a/m hotel Edith B. had met several queer looking men who spoke

russian. The German security forces came into the picture and Edith Bahling was arrested. Her mother claims not have known anything about espionage activities, and it is not known how far Edith B. succeeded in carrying out espionage. The people in Augsburg (where Edith B. lived) assume, that Edith Bahling committed herself to some activities for Soviets in order to get out of Latvia, probably in the hope that she will be left alone once outside. It is believed that Soviet agents had approached her after a while and demanded the fulfillment of promises; V.H. blames newspapers which gave Bahling case much too wide a publicity. Bahling is believed to have been compelled to do something as agreed upon before she departed from Latvia. The general belief is that she was not able to do much harm, and that the great disadvantage lies merely in the embarrassment created ("blamage").

4. In the a/m connection V.H. mentions also Juris ALEKSEJEVS in Hamburg (see card #500); he is also suppose not to be quite "clean"; V.H. states that he introduced a British man to Al. last fall, and this British man later told Hasmers that the position of Al. is dubious.

5. There is apparently a flood of letters coming out of Latvia recently. Margaret Edelmann (source M/144) who came out of Cesis in summer 1953 had a constant correspondence with a school mate in Cesis; recently M.E. wrote to Hasmers (she was invited once to attend a graduation celebration at the Latvian school in Augusdorf wher H.lives) and gave the address of her girl-friend in Cesis, who alledgedly desires to have a correspondence with Latvian boys in exile, so some boy from the Augusdorf school should write to the address given. Hasmers did not introduce this letter in order (as he states) not to endanger the girl in Cesis and to "postpone her trip to Siberia". However, my opinion is that this might be a part of the scheme by Soviets: through the apparently sponsored writing to carry out some propaganda, to trace addresses and last not least to use the wide-a-read correspondence as a communications means for their own espionage. Besides Germany there are news of many letters arriving from Latvia also in Sweden, Australia, Canada and even USA. (B)